

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FOR FORMERLY USED SITES
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY
NEW RIVER ORDNANCE PLANT, RADFORD, VIRGINIA
PROJECT NO. C03VA004700

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On 31 January 1950, the New River Ordnance Plant was discontinued as a subpost and redesignated part of Radford Arsenal, Virginia, a class II industrial installation under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance. Prior to that, War Assets Administration disposed of approximately 380 acres to Burlington Industries, and subsequent disposals were made to numerous individuals, etc.
2. In the 1940's, 3,838.60 acres fee, 22.72 acres easement, and 5 licenses (no area) were acquired from numerous landowners by purchase and condemnation. Radford Arsenal (New River Unit) was originally designated as New River Ordnance Plant. It was constructed in 1941 on approximately 3,838.6 acres of Government owned land as a class II, temporary type installation. In 1946, the plant was designated as a subpost, and in 1950 became an integral part of Radford Arsenal. A portion of the unit containing approximately 380 acres was sold in 1947 to Burlington Mills.
3. The area was originally used as a bag loading plant when it was operated by Hercules Powder Company, with construction of buildings taking place during the 1940s. The New River Plant was operated during World War II by Hercules Powder Company for loading powder into bagged charges, production of flash reducers for the 155 MM gun, and storage of powder. Except for magazine storage, this unit was in a caretaker status from 1947 until 1960.
4. Approximately 380 acres fee were sold to Burlington Industries by War Assets Administration in 1947 and 1948, 176 acres fee were sold to Stanley C. Frank by deed dated 22 April 1963, 184.32 acres fee were sold to Pulaski County Development Authority by deed dated 17 May 1963, 28 acres fee were sold to Commonwealth of Virginia by deed dated 26 July 1963, and 57.50 acres fee were conveyed to Pulaski County School Board by deed dated 22 May 1963. On 31 July 1961, 96.69 acres fee were reassigned to U.S. Army Reserve Outdoor Training Site at Radford and are still Government owned. By deed dated 19 May 1976, 13.80 acres fee were conveyed to the Town of Dublin. By deed dated 19 August 1976, 32.4 acres fee were conveyed to R. Kyle Hash; 4.093 acres to Henry Harvey, Jr. by deed dated 11 August 1976; 40.43 acres fee to George A. McConnell by deed dated 3 October 1977; and 11.92 acres to Samuel T. Elias by deed dated 8 March 1978. The remaining 2,813.447 acres fee are owned by the U.S. Government and is an active installation known as Radford Army Ammunition Plant (New River).

5. All buildings were abandoned by the Government at the time of disposal, and all buildings have either been removed, are being used, or removal is not desired by the current owners. No hazardous or toxic materials are known to be present. No owners wanted any buildings to be removed except Mr. Douglas Whichard of Flow Laboratories (703) 674-8861. The four buildings that Flow Laboratories would like removed have had a beneficial use for housing of experimental animals. Therefore, their request is not considered within the provisions of this program.

DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the site has been determined to have been formerly used by the DOD. However, it is determined that an environmental restoration project is not an appropriate undertaking within the purview of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program, established under Public Law 98-473, Continuous Appropriation, 1985 [Conference Report (HR 98-1159)], for the reasons stated above.

13 May 86

Date



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